



BACK TO SCHOOL, ALL NEW . . . A new school system, new desks and new books greeted Torrance students this week as they started their first year under independent local operation of schools. Pictured here is a group emerging from early classes at Torrance High School where registration this week exceeded expectations by more than 100. (Torrance Herald photo).

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT IN NEW TORRANCE DISTRICT EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS; TOTAL 1847

Enrollment in Torrance City School district for the first three days of operation of the new independent district has exceeded all expectations, Dr. Howard A. Wood, president of the Torrance Board of Education, said yesterday.

There are 1,847 elementary students enrolled in the new Torrance school district, compared with estimates of 1,800 made by Superintendent of Schools J. Henrich Hull early this year. Los Angeles schools, who operated Torrance schools for some 30 years up to this year, had said the figure would be nearer 1,400, officials declared.

El Camino J.C. Registration Nearing 900

El Camino College registration reached the 675 mark Friday noon and it was anticipated additional enrollment would bring the total to 900.

Classes commenced Monday, Sept. 15, in Leuzinger High School on Prairie and Rosecrans blvds., and run daily from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. With a wide offering of evening classes, a part time program is offered working students.

Students have approximately 200 class sections from which to choose ranging from anatomy to zoology and including courses in art, dramatics, business, engineering, French, Spanish, hygiene, journalism, law, music, psychology, sociology, auto mechanics, and radio and electric maintenance.

Construction on the new Alondra Park campus at Crenshaw and Redondo Beach blvds. will begin during October and the college expects to be housed there for the second semester, according to Forrest G. Murdock, president.

Elimination Of Hawthorne Hazard Urged

Steps to eliminate the school crossing-traffic hazard at 182nd St. and Hawthorne Blvd. were taken by two official bodies this week.

Having been told that the traffic on Hawthorne Blvd. cannot be stopped at 182nd St., Torrance City school district officials have advanced their plan to eliminate the hazard and have sought assistance of Chairman Raymond V. Darby, of the Board of Supervisors.

Darby told Superintendent of Schools J. Henrich Hull that he asked the State of California highway department to make a traffic count at the intersection. Some 100 children have to cross Hawthorne Blvd. each day, going to and from school, and because of rises of the road bed on Hawthorne, 182nd St. is hidden from view until speeding traffic is practically upon the intersection.

Crash Kills 2 In Local Plane
A pilot and his woman passenger were killed yesterday when a Timm Navy primary trainer crashed in a heavy fog in the Hollywood hills.

The victims were identified tentatively as Leon W. Lefort Jr., 10519 S. Buria St., Inglewood, co-owner of the plane, and Eleanor (Billie) Cox, 18, of Athens, Calif.

Master Plan Of Freeways Gets County Approval

The Master Plan of Freeways was approved Tuesday by the Board of Supervisors.

The public hearing, held in the Hall of Records, attracted crowds that filled the Board chambers to overflowing and applauded vociferously when their own interests were reviewed through the microphone.

The plan includes three freeways passing through Torrance, the Artesia Parkway at about 174th st.; the Pacific parkway along 101 highway. The Harbor parkway is just east of Torrance.

Coast and Pacific parkways would join in Southwest Torrance; while Artesia parkway would merge with Sepulveda and Pacific parkways would meet in North Torrance.

Blaine Walker, secretary of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, represented Torrance at the meeting.

Chairman Raymond V. Darby, of the Board of Supervisors, in calling the hearing stated that the master plan established a pattern of freeway routes to serve the entire Los Angeles region and that the exact location of the routes and details of engineering design were not to be considered at this time.

The purpose in adopting the plan at this time, Supervisor Darby said, is to bring it into being under provisions of the State Planning Act, thereby establishing it under proper law and providing for legal public hearings before any additions or deletions may be made to the freeway system as adopted.

El Camino college enrollment reached 896 yesterday, with classes being conducted in Leuzinger high school, and a figure of more than 900 was expected.

Schools were undertaken this week, under independent control, without incident.

New teachers, new books, new desks and furniture greeted the Torrance students as they became pupils of the independent Torrance system made possible by the adoption of a City Charter last Aug. 20 providing for setting up of an independent district.

The three buses of the system were found to be handy, and an adjustment of the runs has been found necessary.

The schedules have not been worked out completely.

Meanwhile, circulation of petitions calling for an election to bring about unification of all Torrance schools, kindergarten through high school, was completed with a total of 1,886 qualified electors signing.

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Hull, Worried About Traffic, Asks Parents' Cooperation

Superintendent of Schools J. Henrich Hull yesterday appealed to the parents, children and motorists to take every precaution to avoid accidents involving school children.

"I am worried," Superintendent Hull said. "We don't want to have any accidents."

He asked that parents escort children across streets where no crossing guards are stationed, and that the crossings where there are guards be used exclusively when available. He suggested that mothers could "change off" from time to time escorting children of the various neighborhoods across streets.

"First of all, we want our children alive; second we want them healthy, and third we want them educated," Hull said. "Success in our job of educating them depends upon the first two requirements, life and health."

He said that the teachers' meeting, Oct. 14 at 3:30 p.m. in Torrance elementary school, will be addressed by Homer Brown, traffic safety expert and lecturer for the Automobile Club of Southern California.

COUNCIL VACANCY IN DOUBT AS POWELL ENDS SERVICE; CHAMBER PROGRAM FAVORED

George V. Powell ended his service as a member of the City Council Monday night, and was presented with a letter of appreciation of his services by the Council.

Powell, former head custodian for Torrance high school under the Los Angeles City High School district's regime, has been transferred to Dana Junior high school in San Pedro, and having sold his home he is moving from the city.

In presenting Powell with the letter of appreciation, City Clerk A. H. Bartlett told the retiring councilman that "if you had given us a tip a couple of weeks in advance, we would have had the badge of honor for you." Powell will receive a gold badge from the city as a memento in recognition of his services.

"This is very nice, and I thank each and every one of you," Powell said in his last official statement as a member of the City Council of Torrance.

The Council then adjourned to the next regular meeting, Sept. 23, and their failure to appoint a successor to Powell Monday night has raised considerable speculation in the community.

Several persons are reported to be under consideration for the appointment.

It has been offered, good authority has it, to two business men.

One is Bob Haggard, realtor and member of the City Planning Commission who long has sought efficient city government and who headed the drive to block parking meters for Torrance curbs.

The other is B. T. Whitney, local finance firm head who came to Torrance some 18 months ago. Whitney has denied that he has been approached on the subject, although his possible appointment is a topic of general conversation around the city.

Throughout the community there is widespread endorsement of the Chamber's program. Reflecting the interest generally, the complete edition of last week's Torrance Herald was sold out within 20 minutes.

TORRANCE BUILDING FOR YEAR HITS \$4,526,858

Forty-seven building permits valued at \$272,250 were issued during the past week by the City Building department, boosting the total valuation of building in Torrance for the year 1947 to \$4,526,858.

California-Nevada Properties, Inc. received 29 permits to build residences valued at \$205,100. The company will erect seven homes in the 100 block of Via Alameda, eight in the 200 block, ten in the 100 block of Calle de Andalucia and four in the 500 block of Calle de Arboles.

This year's total, with more than three months remaining, is almost one and one half million more than last year's total of \$3,096,964.

The high Torrance year was 1942, when wartime industrial building pushed the total to \$7,607,784. However, the present year will undoubtedly exceed the second high year recorded in 1943, when \$4,771,908 in building permits was issued, it was predicted.

The previous highs were reached by industrial and business expansion, while this year has had the greatest number of permits issued for residential construction.

Permits issued other than those to the California-Nevada project include the following: Tad N. Rathbun, 1628 W. 223rd st., residence at 2868 Torrance blvd., \$7,500. Charles K. Holt, 18223 S. Gramercy pl., garage, \$800. E. J. King, 803 Beech ave. \$500. (Continued on Page 4-A)

Columbia Will Build Big Sheet Steel Addition To Torrance Works, Report

Erection of a huge cold reduction mill capable of producing more than 300,000 tons of sheet steel annually, is planned by the Columbia Steel Company, subsidiary of the United States Steel Corporation, it was announced this week.

J. Lester Perry, company president, said the new plant will cover 150 to 200 acres, employ about 1,500 men and "it is hoped that construction of the new mill will be completed by the end of 1949, provided no unforeseen delays occur."

While the announcement by President Perry did not identify the exact location of the new mill, other than that it would be built "in the Los Angeles area," well informed sources point out that there is little doubt that it will be located in Torrance.

Some time ago the company purchased the acreage between its present plant site and Western avenue, which provides it with over 200 acres of undeveloped land, or ample to accommodate the new cold reduction mill.

During the past few months engineers have been making surveys and ground tests of this land fronting on Western ave., which observers point out would indicate the contemplated installation of heavy machinery, such as a sheet mill.

The present Torrance mill of Columbia Steel Company, which has been in operation for thirty years, produces merchant bars and light structural shapes, among other products. This operation of the Torrance mill will be continued, President Perry stated.

In addition to cold reduced sheets, the new mill will also be producing hot rolled sheet steel for hot rolled processing and for sheet galvanizing and coating, in order to meet the west coast demand for these types of products, Perry said.

Columbia spokesmen said the mill will produce hot rolled sheets up to 66 inches wide and cold rolled sheets 55 inches wide, suitable for automobile manufacture, and added:

"The new mill will give Southern California and nearby territories access to a largely increased supply of important steel products, manufactured in that same area."

In August, 1945, United States Steel announced that studies were being made with a view to modernizing Columbia's steel facilities in the Los Angeles area, Perry stated, adding "a modern cold reduction sheet mill was a part of that contemplated program."

It is expected that raw materials for the new cold reduction mill, principally in the form of semi-finished steel in coils, will be shipped to a large extent from the Geneva steel mill at Geneva, Utah, which U. S. Steel purchased last year from the government, the company announcement states.

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Contract Let For Water Line On Crenshaw

Water for Torrance Manor, the new 200-home tract being developed by Homer Bale at 174th st. and Crenshaw blvd., will be piped to the subdivision within two weeks, according to William Stanger, manager of the three Torrance water districts.

Hood construction Co. was given a contract to lay 10 and 12-inch mains from 185th st. to 174th st., on Crenshaw blvd., by the City Council Monday night. The pipe already is on the ground. Hood's bid was \$3,242.22.

The work is being done for Torrance Municipal Water District No. 2, and one main already has been laid in Crenshaw blvd. from the Metropolitan Water District connection at 190th st. to 185th st.

Stanger said that he expects to ask for bids in the near future to lay a line in 190th st. from Crenshaw west to the new building being constructed by General Petroleum Corp.

Educational Council Meet

The regular monthly meeting of the Torrance Educational Advisory committee will be held Thursday, Sept. 18 at Daniels Cafe, 12:15 p.m. It is hoped that all representatives will attend the meeting, J. Henrich Hull, superintendent of schools, said.

It cost 20-year-old Gloria C. Keller, 750 W. 157th st., Gardena, \$100 to use a car belonging to Gilbert Nelson, 2218 Cabrillo ave., last July 19.

That is the amount Miss Keller was fined in City Court yesterday by Judge John A. Shidler after she pleaded guilty to the charge of using a car temporarily without permission of the owner.

Miss Keller also had a sentence of 90 days in the county jail suspended by Judge Shidler.

Girl Fined On Auto Charge

The authorization of attendance at conferences and conventions was voted by the Torrance City Council at its meeting Monday night. The sum of \$100 for each man was appropriated for expenses.

William Tolson and C. Merton Gilbert, city councilmen, and Otto B. Willett, city attorney, will attend the meeting of the California League of Municipalities in San Francisco from Sept. 22 to 24 as representatives of Torrance.

Glenn M. Jain, city engineer, will attend the annual business meeting of the Pacific Coast Building Officials conference from Oct. 21 to 24 at Grand Canyon, Ariz., while John Stroh, Torrance police chief, was given approval to attend the International Police Chiefs convention from Oct. 6 to 8 at Hoberg's Lake.

Council Decides Building Dept. Separation Due

Torrance City Council Tuesday night recognized that Torrance needs a separate building department, something that the Chamber of Commerce has been urging for months.

In authorizing City Engineer G. M. Jain to hire an electrical inspector, the Council heard Mayor J. Hugh Sherfy, Jr., remark that "the building department must be separated from the rest of the engineering department."

Councilman W. H. Tolson added, "the quicker we get a building department the better."

Even though building permit fees pay for the inspectors needed, the Council in its economy layoff last spring eliminated several inspectors.

Torrance now is experiencing its first major home-building program, with nearly 800 homes under construction here at this time in new subdivisions.

In addition, considerable industrial expansion is under way, headed by American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corp.'s new \$1,500,000 plant at 203rd St. and Crenshaw Blvd.

16 Per Cent Wage Increase Asked By City Workers

A second meeting between the City Council and representatives of city employe members of the United Public Workers union (CIO) has been set for Oct. 7 after the first conference between the two groups held Monday resulted in no definite agreements.

The union has asked its claims for a wage increase on the high level of salaries prevailing in industries in this area and in municipal positions in the surrounding communities.

This would mean an approximate increase of 16 per cent in the wages of Torrance city employes.

The Council has taken the position that no increases, no matter how justified, could be permitted under the recently adopted city budget.

At the next meeting, both the Council and the union will be prepared to present more statistics and data on wages in the area. A. H. Bartlett, city clerk, was appointed to make a survey of salaries in both private and municipal employment and to report his findings at the meeting.

CRESTLINE VISIT

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bever and Joyce have returned from their Crestline cabin. Their recent guests were Councilman and Mrs. A. L. Jackson and Miss Barbara, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Kerber and Mr. and Mrs. Dirk Nebeling.

The original complaint demanded a restraining order to compel Torrance to withhold its application to the airport which at the time the first complaint was filed.

As yet, many cities have picked out helicopter landing fields, within a few hundred feet of federal buildings, but no site has yet been selected for Torrance.

No Helicopter Mail Service Yet For Area

Helicopter mail service for Torrance and the Harbor district will not be forthcoming for several weeks, due to lack of equipment, H. W. Tavener, U. S. post office inspector, said last week.

Service is due to start on one route north of Los Angeles and the second route will extend east of Los Angeles, it was said.

Since only three helicopters have been received by Los Angeles Airways, Inc., and one must be kept in reserve, no other routes can be undertaken until further deliveries of equipment are made, it was announced.

It was said that no immediate service can be provided for the Harbor district, and due to lack of equipment (Sikorsky helicopters) nothing can be planned as yet.

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LOMITANS FIGHT TO GAIN CONTROL OF TORRANCE CITY AIRPORT RENEWED IN COURT

Filed by Mrs. S. G. Gramer, attorney who states she represents Norman Gardiner, Lomita lumberman; E. M. Mosher, Lomita Progress owner; John B. Stanton, manager of the Lomita branch of the California bank, and W. J. B. Hughes, Torrance taxpayer, a new Superior court attack on ownership and possession by the City of Torrance of Torrance Municipal airport has been instituted.

Unlike the original complaint, in which the court ruled against the Lomita business men who state that each is "an officer of Group Three of the California Wing of the Civil Air Patrol," the new filing asks for declaratory relief and for a writ of mandamus compelling the defendants to deliver the airport to the plaintiffs, or if the court does not want to do that, that the defendants be required to permit said group three and its members to use and occupy such portion of said property and facilities as may be deemed proper for its uses and training and technical programs." Declaratory relief asked is to rule invalid the bids and proposals of the City of Torrance for the airport, and leases and conveyances from the government to the city involving the Army developed flight strip of which the city has had possession since May.

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NEW SCHOOL BUSES . . . Standing in front of the three buses of the Torrance schools are the drivers (l. to r.): Howard Clark, Mrs. Marion Ormand, and Ray Clark, and Jack E. Long, foreman of maintenance and operation for the schools. In the left is a new 65-passenger Transicoach; the old Perry school bus, a 47-passenger Chevrolet, is in the middle; and the other new bus, a 61-passenger White coach, is on the right. (Torrance Herald photo).